

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 HA-05 SY-05 FBOE-00 A-01
PER-01 CA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 /100 W
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O P 231045Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8831
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4140

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 23, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4090 (DTG 201307Z JUL 78)

1. SUMMARY. THE FIRST MAJOR VIOLATION OF THE JULY 6 CEASE-FIRE OCCURRED EVENING JULY 22. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAID THE ARMY WOULD DEPLOY SOUTH BY THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST, BUT CHRISTIAN
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MILITIAMEN REPORTEDLY VOWED TO FIGHT ANY LAF UNITS WHICH DID SO. THE PHALANGE KIDNAPPED TWO LEBANESE POLICEMEN FOR SEVERAL HOURS. FRANJIYAH MILITIAMEN RELEASED TWO FRENCH "TOURISTS." SYRIAN ADF FORCES ARRESTED 30 MEMBERS OF THE PHALANGE PARTY IN NORTH LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. FIGHTING IN HADATH AREA.

A. AN INCIDENT INVOLVING SYRIAN SOLDIERS HAS RESULTED IN THE FIRST MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN/SYRIAN CEASE-FIRE WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT ON JULY 6. ACCORDING TO AN ADF COMMUNIQUE, ON THE MORNING OF JULY 21 AN ADF TRUCK AND AS ADF PATROL WERE FIRED ON FROM HADATH AND TWO SYRIAN SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED. (ACCORDING TO GHASSAN TUENI, ONE SYRIAN SOLDIER WAS KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO G-2 JOHNNY ABDO, "PHALANGE" WOUNDED ONE SYRIAN SOLDIER, AND SYRIANS DEMANDED PERSON RESPONSIBLE BE TURNED OVER TO THEM.)

B. FROM ABOUT 0115 TO 0135 HOURS ON JULY 22, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SHELLING AND SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE HADATH AREA. FROM ABOUT 1115 HOURS JULY 22 TO 0230 JULY 23 THE SYRIANS HIT THE HADATH AREA WITH MORE THAN 200 ROUNDS (ROCKETS AND MORTARS), ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNITED COMMAND OF THE LEBANESE FRONT SAID THAT "THE NLP" HAD NOT RESPONDED TO THE SYRIAN FIRE. RELATIVE CALM IS STILL HOLDING AS OF 1300 HOURS TODAY (JULY 23), BROKEN ONLY BY OCCASIONAL SMALL ARMS FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS.

C. ONE STRAY SMALL-ARMS ROUND HIT THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AT YARZE DURING THE FIGHTING THE EVENING OF JULY 22-23, AND THE OCCUPANTS WERE FORCED TO TAKE SHELTER IN A STORE-ROOM. ONE WINDOW WAS BROKEN, BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

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2. REPORTED PLANS FOR ARMY DEPLOYMENT SOUTH. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTED ON JULY 23 THAT LEBANESE ARMY UNITS WOULD BE SENT SOUTH "THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST." IT SAID THAT THE FINAL DETAILS HAD BEEN PUT ON THE OPERATION WITH UNIFIL, SYRIA, AND THE UNITED STATES, FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH DEPUTY PERMANENT REP LEONARD AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS ON JULY 22. HOWEVER, CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THEY WOULD "FIGHT ANY LEBANESE ARMY ADVANCE WITH ALL MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL," REUTERS REPORTED JULY 23.

3. KIDNAPPING OF TWO POLICEMEN. PHALANGIST MILITIAMEN ON JULY 22 KIDNAPPED TWO LEBANESE POLICE OFFICERS IN THE AKKAWI AREA OF EAST BEIRUT, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS. THE KIDNAPPING CAME SOON AFTER A PHALANGIST MILITIAMAN WAS ARRESTED AT A ROADBLOCK NEAR QARANTINA BRIDGE FOR CARRYING AN M-16 RIFLE AND A HAND GRENADE. TENSION ROSE IN ASHRAFIYAH AS A RESULT AND PHALANGE MILITIA WERE MOBILIZED, BUT THE TWO OFFICERS WERE RELEASED AFTER SEVERAL HOURS.

4. FRENCH TOURISTS RELEASED. TWO FRENCH "TOURISTS, A BUSINESS-MAN AND HIS WIFE" LEFT LEBANON JULY 22 AFTER BEING HELD CAPTIVE TWO DAYS BY FRANJIYAH MILITIAMEN IN ZGHORTA, ACCORDING TO IKE.

THEY WERE CAPTURED ON JULY 19, WHEN THEY DROVE THROUGH THE TOWN IN THE COMPANY OF FARAJ OBEID, A PHALANGE OFFICIAL SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUNE 13 IHDIN MASSACRE. OBEID IS STILL BEING HELD.

5. PHALANGISTS ARRESTED. SYRIAN ADF FORCES ARRESTED 30 MEMBERS OF THE PHALANGE PARTY IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF KOURA ON JULY 22, IKE ALSO REPORTED. THEY WERE ARRESTED FOR COMPLICITY IN THE JULY 19 RPG ATTACK ON DEPUTY FUAD GHOSN'S HOME IN KOUSBA, KOURA. (GHOSN WAS SPENDING THE NIGHT AT FORMER PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH'S HOME IN ZGHORTA THAT NIGHT).
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